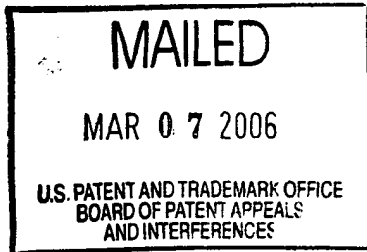


UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS
AND INTERFERENCES

Ex parte ELIZABETH BELVA HAMEL et al.

Application 09/912,586

ORDER RETURNING UNDOCKETED APPEAL TO EXAMINER

This application was received electronically at the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences on January 27, 2006. A review of the application has revealed that the application is not ready for docketing as an appeal. Accordingly, the application is herewith being electronically returned to the examiner. The matters requiring attention prior to docketing are identified below:

A review of the Image File Wrapper (IFW) indicates that appellants filed an Appeal Brief on June 15, 2005 January 21, 2005 using the format set forth in 37 CFR § 41.37(c). However, the Appeal Brief does not fully comply with 37 CFR § 41.37(c).

37 CFR § 41.37 states:

(a)(1) Appellant must file a brief under this section within two months from the date of filing the notice of appeal under § 41.31.

(2) The brief must be accompanied by the fee set forth in § 41.20(b)(2).

(b) On failure to file the brief, accompanied by the requisite fee, within the period specified in paragraph (a) of this section, the appeal will stand dismissed.

(c)(1) The brief shall contain the following items under appropriate headings and in the order indicated in paragraphs (c)(1)(i) through (c)(1)(x) of this section, except that a brief filed by an appellant who is not represented by a registered practitioner need only substantially comply with paragraphs (c)(1)(i) through (c)(1)(iv) and (c)(1)(vii) through (c)(1)(x) of this section:

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(ix) *Evidence appendix.* An appendix containing copies of any evidence submitted pursuant to §§ 1.130, 1.131, or 1.132 of this title or of any other evidence entered by the examiner and relied upon by appellant in the appeal, along with a statement setting forth where in the record that evidence was entered in the record by the examiner. Reference to unentered evidence is not permitted in the brief. See § 41.33 for treatment of evidence submitted after appeal. This appendix may also include copies of the evidence relied upon by the examiner as to grounds of rejection to be reviewed on appeal.

(x) *Related proceedings appendix.* An appendix containing copies of decisions rendered by a court or the Board in any proceeding identified pursuant to paragraph (c)(1)(ii) of this section.

(2) A brief shall not include any new or non-admitted amendment, or any new or non-admitted affidavit or other evidence. See

§ 1.116 of this title for amendments, affidavits or other evidence filed after final action but before or on the same date of filing an appeal and § 41.33 for amendments, affidavits or other evidence filed after the date of filing the appeal.

(d) If a brief is filed which does not comply with all the requirements of paragraph (c) of this section, appellant will be notified of the reasons for non-compliance and given a time period within which to file an amended brief. If appellant does not file an amended brief within the set time period, or files an amended brief which does not overcome all the reasons for non-compliance stated in the notification, the appeal will stand dismissed.

(e) The time periods set forth in this section are extendable under the provisions of § 1.136 of this title for patent applications and § 1.550(c) of this title for ex parte reexamination proceedings.

An in-depth review of the Appeal Brief filed January 21, 2005 indicates that the following sections are missing:

- 1) "Evidence appendix," as set forth in 37 CFR § 41.37(c)(1)(ix); and
- 2) "Related proceedings appendix," as set forth in 37 CFR § 41.37(c)(1)(x).

A supplemental brief that is in compliance with § 41.37(c) is required. For more information, see the United States Patent and Trademark website www.uspto.gov, and, in

particular, the web page entitled "More Information on the Rules of Practice Before the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences, Final Rule" located at the following URL:

www.uspto.gov/web/offices/dcom/bpai/fr2004/moreinfo.html

In addition, the examiner acknowledged the Appeal Brief in an Examiner's Answer mailed on September 23, 2005. Section 1207.02 of the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure (MPEP) (8th Ed., Rev. 3, August 2005) states:

Requirements for Examiner's Answer

The examiner's answer is required to include, under appropriate headings, in the order indicated, the following items:

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(8) Evidence Relied Upon. A listing of the evidence relied on (e.g., patents, publications, admitted prior art), and, in the case of nonpatent references, the relevant page or pages.

It is noted that while the Examiner's Answer states that "[n]o evidence is relied upon by the examiner in the rejection of the claims under appeal" [page 2 under the caption "Evidence Relied Upon"], the claim rejections are listed as follows:

1. Claims 1-2, 6-10, 14-18, 22-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over IBM Corporation ("Data-joiner: A Multidatabase Server Version 1), hereinafter "IBM", and in view of Hejlsberg

et al. (US 6,151,602), hereinafter
"Hejlsberg" [page 3];

2. Claims 3, 11, 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over IBM and Hejlsberg as applied to claims 1-2, 6-10, 14-18, 22-24 above, and further in view of Gottemukkala ("Interfacing Parallel Applications and Parallel Databases"), hereinafter "Gottemukkala" [page 6]; and

3. Claims 4-5, 12-13, 20-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over IBM and Hejlsberg as applied to claims 1-2, 6-10, 14-18, 22-24 above, and further in view of Vassilakis et al. ("Implementing Embedded Valid Time Query Languages"), hereafter "Vassilakis" [page 7].

Correction is required.

Accordingly, it is

ORDERED that the application is returned to the

Examiner:

- 1) to hold the Appeal Brief filed June 15, 2005 defective;
- 2) for notification to appellants to file a supplemental Appeal Brief in compliance with 37 CFR § 41.37;
- 3) for consideration of the supplemental Appeal Brief;
- 4) to submit a revised Examiner's Answer which corrects the "Evidence Relied Upon" section;

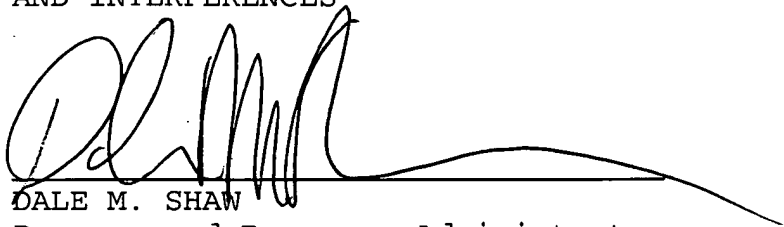
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5) to have a complete copy of any subsequent Examiner's Answer scanned into the IFW; and

6) for such further action as may be appropriate.

BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS
AND INTERFERENCES

By:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. M. Shaw', written over a horizontal line.

DALE M. SHAW
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DMS/psb

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